

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6975

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 01728

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SREF, CB, FR, TH

SUBJECT: RETURN OF CAMBODIANS TO CAMBODIA

REF: BANGKOK 0820

1. AFP AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES HAVE REPORTED DEPARTURES FROM PARIS OF CAMBODIANS WHO ARE RETURNING TO PHNOM PENH VIA PEKING. WE UNDERSTAND APPROXIMATELY 200 HAVE RETURNED, AND SINCE THE LOCAL MISSION HAS ISSUED IN PARIS APPROXIMATELY 450 PASSPORTS, MORE CAMBODIANS CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE THE SAME ROUTE. THE MAJORITY OF RETURNEES APPEAR TO BE IMPOVERISHED STUDENTS AND FORMER STUDENTS, MOST OF WHOM HAVE BEEN ON THE FRINGES OF GRUNK ACTIVITIES SINCE 1970. THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR PASSPORT AND A RE-ENTRY PERMIT FOR CAMBODIA WERE FREQUENTLY REFERRED TO PHNOM PENH; RE-ENTRY FOR THE LESS NUMEROUS FORMER ADHERENTS OF THE GKR NO DOUBT TOOK SOME TIME.

2. NO ONE HERE HAS AS YET ANY INFORMATION ON THE ONWARD MOVEMENT FROM PEKING TO PHNOM PENH, BUT IT SEEMS
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LIKELY THAT THESE CAMBODIANS RETURNED NEARLY

IMMEDIATELY TO THEIR COUNTRY.

3. THE RETURNEES FROM PARIS ARE ENTERING BY THE FRONT DOOR WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF PHNOM PENH, AN APPROACH DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF REFUGEES IN THAILAND WHO ATTEMPT TO CROSS THE BORDER. IN ADDITION, MOST OF THE RETURNEES FROM PARIS WERE FOR SOME TIME GRUNK SUPPORTERS, WHICH MAY NOT BE MUCH OF A CREDENTIAL, BUT IT IS NO DOUBT BETTER THAN THAT OF THE MAJORITY OF REFUGEES IN THAILAND.
RUSH

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